Attachment 4

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

22850	7590	04/08/2009

OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
1940 DUKE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER
ZHOU, TING

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2173	

DATE MAILED: 04/08/2009

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/901,275	07/09/2001	Arnd Krusche	282845US8X	7558

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD FOR CONTROLLING NETWORK DEVICES VIA A MMI

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	$1510	$0	$1510	$1510	07/08/2009

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PTOL-85 (Rev. 08/07) Approved for use through 08/31/2010.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail**   Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
or **Fax**   (571)-273-2885

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

22850   7590   04/08/2009

OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
1940 DUKE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission
I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/901,275	07/09/2001	Arnd Krusche	282845US8X	7558

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD FOR CONTROLLING NETWORK DEVICES VIA A MMI

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	$1510	$0	$1510	$1510	07/08/2009

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
ZHOU, TING	2173	715-853000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

❑ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.

❑ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

(1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,   1 _____

(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to   2 _____
2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.   3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE   (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) :   ❑ Individual ❑ Corporation or other private group entity ❑ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:
❑ Issue Fee
❑ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
❑ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s): **(Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)**
❑ A check is enclosed.
❑ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
❑ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. **Change in Entity Status** (from status indicated above)
❑ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27.   ❑ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____   Date _____

Typed or printed name _____   Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

PTOL-85 (Rev. 08/07) Approved for use through 08/31/2010.   OMB 0651-0033   U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/901,275	07/09/2001	Arnd Krusche	282845US8X	7558

22850	7590	04/08/2009	

OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
1940 DUKE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER
ZHOU, TING

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2173	

DATE MAILED: 04/08/2009

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)
(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 187 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 187 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (http://pair.uspto.gov).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	09/901,275	KRUSCHE ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**	
	TING ZHOU	2173	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *06/18/08*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *48-69*.

3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☒ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None   of the:

        1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

        1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of

        Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

1.   The Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed on 18 June 2008 under 37 CFR

1.53(d) based on parent Application No. 09/901,275 is acceptable and a RCE has been

established. An action on the RCE follows.

2.   The amendments filed on 18 April 2008, submitted with the filing of the RCE have been

received and entered. Claims 48-69 as amended are pending in the application.

PROPOSED EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or

additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR

1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the

payment of the issue fee.

        Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with

Mr. James Love (Reg. No. 58,421) on 26 March 2009.

4.   The application is amended as follows:

     a.   Replace the Abstract with the follows:

A method of controlling network devices via a man-machine interface including determining a connection of one or more devices to a network, determining availability of one or more multimedia services available via a respective one of the connected devices, and displaying a hierarchical view representative of one or more of the connected devices and one or more of the available multimedia services.

b.   The specification is amended as follows:

i.   Replace the heading "Description" at the top of page 2 with the heading --

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.

ii.   Add the heading --1. Technical Field -- above line 1 on page 2 (underneath

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION).

iii.   Add the heading -- 2. Description of Related Art -- at line 6 on page 2

(Before the start of the second paragraph).

iv.   Add the heading -- BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION -- at the

top of page 6 (before line 1).

v.   Add the heading -- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS -- at

line 25 on page 9.

vi.   Add the heading -- DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION --

at line 14 on page 10.

c.   The claims are amended as follows:

vii.   Claim 48 is amended as follows:

Claim 48.   A method for controlling network devices via a home network, the network

devices being connected to said home network via different protocol standards, comprising:

simultaneously displaying generated ~~generating~~ icons of the network devices having a

plurality of functions regarding a reproducing and/or recording of an audio/video signal, icons of

a plurality of services provided by each device grouped according to the type of services

provided ~~icons of all services corresponding to the devices~~, and menus including the functions

which are operable with the associated network device or service;

at least partially displaying the generated icons with a hierarchical structure so as to show

a relationship of network connections of the network devices in the home network;

receiving a selection of a network device or a service by a user selecting one of the

displayed icons;

selectively displaying the menu of a selected network device or service, the menu

including the functions which are operable with the selected network device or service;

receiving a selection of a function in the selectively displayed menu; and controlling the

network device or service to execute the selected function based on a respective one of the

protocol standards,

wherein the execution of the selected function results in a data stream of an audio/video

signal stored in a providing network device being sent from the providing network device to the

selected network device or to a device capable of receiving said data stream via the home

network; and

receiving a user selection resulting from a dragging of one of the displayed icons

of the plurality of services provided by a corresponding network device and a dropping of

the icon on an icon of another network device to perform the service corresponding to the

dragged and dropped icon on the another network device.

viii.   Claim 51 is amended as follows:

Claim 51.   The method according to claim 50 48, wherein at least partially displaying the

icons with a hierarchical structure further includes organizing the icons according to the kind of

sub-networks connected to said network.

                ix.   Claim 55 is amended as follows:

Claim 55.   A controller including a man-machine interface for controlling network devices vi

a home network, the network devices being connected to said home network via different

protocol standards, comprising:

        means for simultaneously displaying generated generating icons of the network devices

having a plurality of functions regarding a reproducing and/or recording of an audio/video signal,

icons of a plurality of services provided by each device grouped according to the type of services

provided icons of all services corresponding to the devices, and menus including the functions

which are operable with the associated network device;

        means for at least partially displaying the generated icons with a hierarchical structure so

as to show a relationship of network connections of the network devices in the home network;

        means for receiving a selection of a network device or service by a user selecting one of

the displayed icons;

        means for selectively displaying the menu of a selected network device or service, the

menu including the functions which are operable with the selected network device or service;

        means for receiving a selection of a function in the selectively displayed menu; and

means for controlling the network device or service to execute the selected function

based on a respective one of the protocol standards,

wherein the execution of the selected function results in a data stream of an audio/video

signal stored in a providing network device being sent from the providing network device to the

selected network device or to a device capable of receiving said data stream via the home

network; and

means for receiving a user selection resulting from a dragging of one of the displayed

icons of the plurality of services provided by a corresponding network device and a dropping of

the icon on an icon of another network device to perform the service corresponding to the

dragged and dropped icon on the another network device.

x.   Claim 58 is amended as follows:

Claim 58.   The controller according to claim 57 55, wherein means for at least partially

displaying the icons with a hierarchical structure further includes means for organizing the icons

according to the kind of sub-networks connected to said network.

xi.   Claim 62 is amended as follows:

Claim 62.   A computer readable storage medium having computer readable program code

stored thereon for causing a computer to provide a man-machine interface for controlling

network devices via a home network, the network devices being connected to said home network

via different protocol standards, the computer readable <u>storage</u> medium comprising executable

instructions that cause a computer to:

<u>simultaneously displaying generated</u> ~~generate~~ icons of the network devices having a

plurality of functions regarding a reproducing and/or recording of an audio/video signal, icons of

a plurality of services provided by each device according to the type of services provided, and

menus including the functions which are operable with the associated network device or service;

at least partially display the generated icons with a hierarchical structure so as to show a

relationship of network connections of the network devices in the home network;

receive a selection of a network device or service by a user selecting one of the displayed

icons;

selectively display the menu of a selected network device or service, the menu including

the functions which are operable with the selected network device or service;

receive a selection of a function in the selectively displayed menu; and

control the network device or service to execute the selected function based on a

respective one of the protocol standards,

wherein the execution of the selected function results in a data stream of an audio/video

signal stored in a providing network device being sent from the providing network device to the

selected network device or to a device capable of receiving said data stream via the home

network<u>; and</u>

receive a user selection resulting from a dragging of one of the displayed icons of the

plurality of services provided by a corresponding network device and a dropping of the icon on

an icon of another network device to perform the service corresponding to the dragged and

dropped icon on the another network device.

xii.   Claim 63 is amended as follows:

Claim 63.   A method for providing a man-machine interface for controlling network devices

via a home network, the network devices being connected to said home network via different

protocol standards, comprising:

simultaneously displaying generated ~~generating~~ icons of the network devices having a

plurality of functions regarding a reproducing and/or recording of an audio/video signal, icons of

a plurality of services provided by each device grouped according to the type of services

provided, ~~or to a device capable of receiving said data stream~~ and menus including the functions

which are operable with/by the associated network device/service;

at least partially displaying the generated icons with a hierarchical structure so as to show

a relationship of network connections of the network devices in the home network;

receiving a selection of a network device or service by a user selecting one of the

displayed icons;

selectively displaying the menu of a selected network device or service, the menu

including the functions which are operable with[[/by]] the selected network device/service;

receiving a selection of a function in the selectively displayed menu; ~~and~~

controlling the network device <u>or service</u> to execute the selected function based

on <u>a</u> the respective <u>one of the</u> protocol <u>standards</u> standard,

<u>wherein the execution of the selected function results in a data stream of an audio/video</u>

<u>signal stored in a providing network device being sent from the providing network device to the</u>

<u>selected network device or to a device capable of receiving said data stream via the home</u>

<u>network; and</u>

<u>receiving a user selection resulting from a dragging of one of the displayed icons of the</u>

<u>plurality of services provided by a corresponding network device and a dropping of the icon on</u>

<u>an icon of another network device to perform the service corresponding to the dragged and</u>

<u>dropped icon on the another network device.</u>

        xiii.   Claim 66 is amended as follows:

Claim 66.   The method according to claim <u>65</u> 63, wherein at least partially displaying the

icons with a hierarchical structure further includes organizing the icons according to the kind of

sub-networks connected to said network.

Allowable Subject Matter

5.   Claims 48-69 are allowed.

6.   The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention

teaches controlling various kinds of home network devices via a man-machine interface. Each of

the independent claims identifies the distinct feature of receiving a user selection resulting from a

dragging of one of the displayed icons of the plurality of services provided by a corresponding

network device and a dropping of the icon on an icon of another network device to perform the

service corresponding to the dragged and dropped icon on the another network device. The

closest prior art, Microsoft® Windows (hereinafter "Windows"), copyright 1998 (Screenshot 1)

and Wendorf et al. U.S. Patent 7,257,821 (hereinafter "Wendorf") teach an interface that displays

a hierarchical view of home devices connected to a home network. In the case of the Windows

reference, Windows teaches generating icons of the network devices having a plurality of

functions regarding a reproducing and/or recording of an audio/video signal and menus including

the functions which are operable with the associated network devices (Screenshot 2 shows the

display of a plurality of icons representing devices that are connected and available to the

computer network, for example, an Audio CD player that is capable of reproducing/playing

audio CDs); at least partially displaying the generated icons with a hierarchical structure so as to

show a relationship of network connections of the network devices in the network (the icons

representing the devices are shown in a hierarchical tree display in Screenshot 2; each of the

devices have a menu of available functions associated with it, as shown in Screenshot 3, that can

be shown by right-clicking on the device icon); receiving a selection of a network device by a

user selecting one of the displayed icons (for example, selection of the Audio CD device icon, as

shown in Screenshots 3 and 4); selectively displaying the menu of a selected network device, the

menu including the functions which are operable with the selected network device (a menu of

available functions such as "Play" are displayed upon user selection via right-clicking the

corresponding device icon, as shown in Screenshots 3 and 4); receiving a selection of a function

in the selectively displayed menu (users can select any of the functions displayed in the menu

shown in Screenshot 3, such as the "Play" function); and controlling the network device to

execute the selected function (the network device, i.e. CD player will execute the function of the

playing the CD upon selection of the "Play" function in the menu shown in Screenshot 3),

wherein the execution of the selected function results in a data stream of an audio/video signal

stored in a providing network device being sent from the providing network device to the

selected network device via the network (upon user selection of the "Play" function, the selected

network device of the Audio CD player will play the data stream, i.e. a particular track selected

on the providing network device, i.e. the computer, as shown in Screenshots 6-8). In the case of

the Wendorf reference, Wendorf teaches controlling home devices connected to a home network

based on a respective one of different protocol standards (the communication system of the in-

home network operates the in-home devices using predetermined home protocols) (Wendorf:

column 1: lines 40-49), and wherein execution of the selected function results in a data stream of

an audio/video signal stored in a providing network device being sent from the providing

network device to the selected network device via the home network (a user can program his

home VCR from his remote office PC, i.e. data signals are sent from the user's office to the

user's home network) (Wendorf: column 1, lines 12-17). However, the prior art fail to teach

performing a selected service that is grouped according the type of service provided by one

network device on another displayed network device via a drag and drop operation; therefore, the

prior art fails to teach the limitation of receiving a user selection resulting from a dragging of one

of the displayed icons of a plurality of services provided by a corresponding network device and

a dropping of the icon on an icon of another network device to perform the service corresponding

to the dragged and dropped icon on the another network device. Thus, the prior art fails to

anticipate or render the above limitations obvious.

7.   Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the

payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for

Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to TING ZHOU whose telephone number is (571)272-4058. The

examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Kieu Vu can be reached on (571) 272-4057. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would

like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated

information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ting Zhou/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2173